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4 April 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted], Legislation Division
Office of Congressional Affairs

THRU: [redacted]
DO/EPS [redacted]

FROM: [redacted]
DO/Chief, Policy and Coordination Staff

SUBJECT: International Security and Satellite Monitoring
Act of 1988, H.R. 4036

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.R. 4036 bill to establish a Commission on International Security and Satellite Monitoring. I am attaching thoughtful comments from our Imagery Liaison Officer which reflect the concerns of this Directorate with H.R. 4036. If further comments are desired, please contact

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[redacted] in PCS, [redacted] at [redacted]

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Attachments: a/s

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MEMO FOR THE RECORD

REFERENCE: REPRESENTATIVE MRAZEK'S BILL (29 FEB 88)

THE BILL TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND SATELLITE MONITORING (HR 4036) DOES NOT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, HR 4036 DOES PROVIDE THE AUTHORITY, MONEY, STAFF, AND DIRECTION TO INITIATE ACTIONS THAT PROBABLY WILL IMPACT ON DCI/CIA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMISSION CAN SECURE THE CLEARANCES, INFORMATION, AND SERVICES IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE.

FROM ANOTHER VIEW, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE COMMISSION COULD BE VERY IMPORTANT. THE BILL ITSELF IS SOMEWHAT A SHOTGUN, BUT IT IS AN OMNIBUS-TYPE BILL THAT ESTABLISHES A BASE POINT OF REFERENCE AND SERVES AS A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE ACTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BILL CONTAINS THE NOTION OF FORMING AN OPEN SKIES AGENCY.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BILL IS THAT IT RECOGNIZES THE IMPROVED QUALITY OF REMOTE-SENSING TECHNOLOGIES; THE PROLIFERATION OF NON-U.S. COMMERCIAL SATELLITES; THE MILITARY APPLICATIONS OF CIVILIAN SATELLITES; AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN ARTICULATING AND ADVOCATING POLICY IN THIS AREA.

IN WAY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION, PCS [REDACTED] IS ACTIVELY STUDYING NEW WAYS TO USE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE, UNCLASSIFIED SATELLITE IMAGERY. HR 4036 ALLOWS FOR 15 ADVISORY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, AND ONE OF THESE IS TO BE APPOINTED FROM CIA. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR PCS [REDACTED] TO RECEIVE AND/OR HAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE COMPILED BY THE COMMISSION.

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IMAGERY LIAISON OFFICER

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